

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

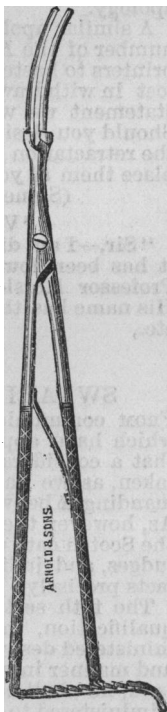
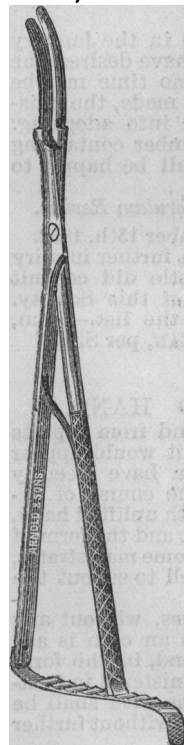
IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE
ALLIED SCIENCES.

UTERINE DILATORS.

ANYONE introducing a new form of uterine dilator owes some apology to the profession; yet I think the great variety of such instruments already in existence is in itself evidence that no form has given perfect satisfaction. For some years past I have been accustomed, in cases where I desired to effect rapid dilatation of the cervix, first to pass graduated metallic dilators, and when the canal was sufficiently opened by this means, then to effect further dilatation by means of

a modified glove-stretcher.

I have now got Messrs. Arnold and Sons to make two instruments on the latter principle which can be used separately or simultaneously, and by means of which the cervical canal can be rapidly and safely enlarged in all cases where the cervix is sufficiently yielding to justify rapid dilatation from a diameter slightly exceeding that of an ordinary uterine sound to a size sufficiently large to admit one finger readily. The accompanying illustrations will render a full description of the instruments unnecessary. The smaller instrument, with the blades closed, can be passed without difficulty through any uterine canal that will admit an ordinary uterine sound. The blades are curved and open in an antero-posterior direction on compressing the handles. The latter are provided with a catch working on a rack, which permits their slow approximation, but checks their tendency to separate until it is so desired. When



the full amount of dilatation has been effected the blades of this instrument are permitted to close; it is then withdrawn and the larger one is substituted. This is used in a similar manner, except that the blades expand in a lateral direction—that is, at right angles to the other. When the larger instrument has been compressed so as to produce the fullest expansion of the blades, if any further dilatation be desired it can be accomplished by inserting the smaller dilator between the expanded blades of the larger one, and again opening them; but for the purpose of curetting this will not be found necessary. If the cervix be rigid, and rapid dilatation to any considerable extent therefore contra-indicated, the following method will be found most satisfactory.

First, use the small dilator until the canal is sufficiently opened to admit a medium-sized tent, then introduce a tent and permit it to remain for three or four hours. At the end of this time the cervix will have become so soft and yielding that the full amount of dilatation required for ordinary purposes can be readily accomplished with my dilators. For these dilators I claim the following advantages:

1. Only two instruments are required for all ordinary purposes.
2. They will rapidly and safely dilate the cervical canal from its ordinary size to a diameter sufficiently great to admit a full-sized finger.
3. Owing to the way in which the blades open, they will dilate the os internum to a slightly greater extent than the os externum, a point which most of the dilators in use fail to accomplish.

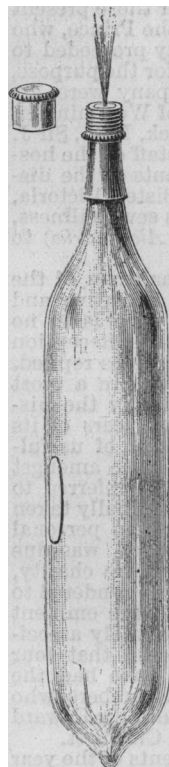
4. The compressing force of the hand, while capable of exerting all the force desirable, acts as a guide to the amount of pressure and resistance, and can be used in a delicate manner so as not risk any injury by overstretching, having this great advantage over any screw-like mechanism.
5. As the blades are only 2 inches long from the projecting shoulders, they will not come in contact with the fundus.

C. YELVERTON PEARSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,
Surgeon to the County and City of Cork Hospital for Women and Children, etc.

CHLOROETHYL SPRAY.

THIS instrument, designed by Dr. Bengué—for which the agent is B. Kühn, St. Mary's Hill, Eastcheap—by its ingenious arrangement supplies a very useful desideratum for the convenient production of local anæsthesia. The practitioner is able to produce by it local anæsthesia for minor operations such as present themselves in dentistry, in the incision of abscess, carbuncle, extraction of foreign bodies, etc. The physician will find it available as a means of subduing neuralgic pains.

The instrument is employed in the following manner: Take the ball in the right hand, unscrew the stopper, and the warmth of the hand will send out the spray. If applied at a distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch for 30 to 60 seconds to one spot the skin first gets a pink colour, then red, and finally white. In the latter stage local anæsthesia is completed; it will last for 2 minutes, and can be prolonged if the spray is applied for more than a minute. To subdue neuralgic and other nervous pains it is sufficient to let the spray play over the part affected until the pain ceases, and to apply it again should the pain return afterwards. This instrument has several advantages over the old method of simply supplying glass tubes filled with the liquid. It is cheaper; the ball complete in case costs 3s. 6d. It contains 30 grammes; sufficient for ten to fifteen minor operations, or the same number of extractions of teeth. The stopper preserves the liquid intact to the last drop.

THE CLARENCE MEMORIAL WING,
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

Special Circumstances of the Occasion.—The New Wing.—The Duke of York and St. Mary's Hospital.—The Reception Speech of the Prince of Wales.—Prize Presentation.—Laying of the Foundation Stone.

THE ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Clarence Memorial Wing of St. Mary's Hospital was one which had more than merely professional interest—it took the character of a national event. It was the first public act performed by the Prince of Wales since the death of the Duke of Clarence, to whose memory the wing will form a memorial. The Prince was accompanied by the Duke of York, who has accepted the presidency of the hospital; by his daughter Princess Maud, who represented the Princess of Wales; and other members of the Royal Family.

The wing, which will provide accommodation bringing the number of beds in the hospital up to 400, will also furnish further accommodation for nurses, new out-patient rooms, and additional accommodation for the medical school. It extends the façade of St. Mary's Hospital into Praed Street, and thus brings the hospital much more thoroughly into view. Forty thousand pounds were needed to purchase the site, and the buildings which occupied it will cost upwards of £100,000, in addition to the increased cost of maintenance which it will entail.

The Duke of York had on the previous day, after lunching with Dr. Broadbent, accompanied him on a visit to the hospital, which he had thoroughly inspected, visiting all the wards and acquainting himself with the details of manage-

ment. The Duke, as President, arrived before his father, and accompanied him to the Board Room, where the Prince was received by some members of the Reception Committee, of which Mr. J. D. Allcroft is chairman, and of the Building Committee, of which Mr. G. P. Field is the chairman. There were also present some members of the present and past medical staff of the hospital, among whom were Dr. Broadbent, Dr. Cheadle, Mr. Arthur Norton, Mr. Anderson Critchett, Mr. Edmund Owen, and Mr. Ernest Hart. After those present in the reception room had been presented to the Prince, who found a gracious word for each, the Royal party proceeded to a large reception tent which had been erected for the purpose, and where a numerous and influential company were assembled. Among them were the Archbishop of Westminster, Dr. Farquharson, M.P., Sir Algernon Borthwick, M.P., Sir J. Crichton-Browne, and all the members of the staff of the hospital, with many of the most leading inhabitants of the district. On their way to the reception tent Sister Victoria, who had nursed the Duke of York through his severe illness, presented a bouquet of orchids (*Odontoglossum Alexandriæ*) to Princess Maud.

Addresses were read by Mr. Field, the Chairman of the Building Committee, to whose intelligent initiative and indefatigable exertions the erection of a new wing is in no small measure due; and by the Chairman of the Reception Committee. To these addresses the Prince of Wales replied, not formally, as is usual on such occasions, but in a most gracious and touching speech. Tracing succinctly the history of the hospital, which in the twenty-five years of its existence had risen so rapidly to a high position of usefulness among metropolitan charities and of repute amongst the educational institutions of the country, he referred to the interest which the Prince Consort had originally taken in the foundation of the hospital, and to his own personal interest in its welfare. This, he gracefully added, was due not alone to its value and importance as a public charity, but to his sense of the services which had been rendered to himself and beloved members of his family by the eminent physician, Dr. Broadbent, whose name is intimately associated with the hospital. Here it may be noted that four members of the staff of St. Mary's Hospital have had the honour of rendering such services: Dr. T. K. Chambers, who accompanied the Prince in his travels in Palestine; Sir Edward Sieveking; Dr. Broadbent; and Mr. Anderson Critchett.

Mr. Field, as Dean, then presented the students of the year who had won scholarships and prizes, to whom the Prince presented the certificates. Then followed the laying of the foundation stone with due ceremony. Mr. Allcroft, in returning the thanks of the Board of Management of the hospital, particularly drew attention to the Residential College for Students, which will form an important part of the new wing, and remarked that the fact of the resident medical officers and students being placed under the same roof in the hospital ground tended to the advancement of medical education, and would be, therefore, a great gain to rich and poor alike. So terminated a ceremony of an unusually interesting and auspicious character, in which the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family once more testified their deep interest in the extension and development of the great medical charities of the metropolis, and their grateful sense of obligation and regard for the medical profession.

VIVISECTION: A SONNET.

An age of doubt and cavil seeks a sign.

Oh, toiler for mankind, look back, and see

Where down the barren slopes of Galilee

Pours black the shrieking cataract of swine.

Forth from those summits shines the man divine,

The healed demoniac crouches at his knee.

This sign is given to thy day and thee,

And Christ performed that duty which is thine.

Also, thou hast thy further help 'gainst hate,

And fear, and ignorance. Watch still that scene.

The swineherds flee, the crowd pours from the gate,

The man is naught beside their beasts unclean.

Christ is thrust forth. Be not intimidate

For any terror of the Gadarene.

Bordighera.

J. A. GOODCHILD, M.D.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE AND MR. HORSLEY.

THE following apology has been sent to Mr. Victor Horsley:—

The Verulam Review, Editor's Office, 31, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, December 17th.

Sir,—This morning's post has brought me a letter from the Secretary of the Victoria Street Society, of which I herewith enclose a copy.

From that letter it appears that I was entirely misled in making, on the authority of the writer's former assurance, the statement in our Extra Number, published last month, with regard to the alleged falseness of your charge against the Duke of Newcastle. So far, therefore, as concerns the assertion in that article that your statement was untrue, I hasten to offer you the fullest retraction and the most sincere apology.

A similar apology will, of course, be made in the January number of the *Review*, the issue of which I have desired the printers to hasten as much as possible, that no time may be lost in withdrawing, as publicly as it was made, the misstatement we were unfortunately deceived into adopting. Should you desire to send copies of the number containing the retraction to any of your friends, I shall be happy to place them at your disposal.—I am, etc.,

(Signed) THE EDITOR OF *The Verulam Review*.

"Victoria Street Society, December 15th, 1892:

"Sir,—I am directed to inform you that on further inquiry it has been found that the Duke of Newcastle did consult Professor Horsley while a Vice-President of this Society. His name has therefore been removed from the list.—I am, etc.,

(Signed) B. BRYAN, per S. B."

SWEARING WITH UPLIFTED HAND.

FROM communications we have received, and from reports which have appeared in the daily papers, it would appear that a considerable number of medical men have recently taken, as we have suggested they should, the course of demanding to be sworn in the Scotch manner with uplifted hand. As, however, the provisions of the Oaths Act and the form of the Scotch oath do not seem to be familiar to some magistrates, judges, and judicial officers, it may be as well to set out the facts precisely.

The fifth section of the Oaths Act declares, without any qualification, that "if any person to whom an oath is administered desires to swear with uplifted hand, in the form and manner in which an oath is usually administered in Scotland, he shall be permitted to do so, and the oath shall be administered to him in such form and manner without further question" (51 and 52 Vict., c. 46, s. 5).

This enactment applies not only to all forms of the witness oath, whether in civil or criminal courts or before coroners, but also to the swearing of affidavits before a commissioner, and to the swearing in of jurors and to all forms of oaths of office—in a word, to every oath which may be lawfully administered in Great Britain and Ireland. The change of form has no reference to religious belief, and it is improper for either the witness or the judge to describe it as an "affirmation." It remains an oath of the same character in all but the form as before. But the Scotch form should be exactly followed, as the risks of invalidity would be at once incurred if some private variation were allowed to grow up. The form is simple, except in the fact that it involves a different form of words. In the case of the witness oath, the Scotch words are: "I swear by Almighty God [and as I shall answer to God at the Great Day of Judgment] that I will speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." The juror's oath is analogous: "I swear by God, and as I shall answer to God at the Great Day of Judgment, that I will well and truly try this issue, and a true verdict give according to the evidence." In neither case are the words "So help me God" added. In all cases the witness takes the oath standing, with the bare right hand uplifted above the head. If a man, he is uncovered, but, as in England, a Jew is sworn covered. If a woman, she is not to be veiled, and takes off her glove. The witness oath is ad-